



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION COMMISSION**
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CYN YAMASHIRO
President

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"PRESS RELEASE"

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles County Probation Department begins its new term with the election of Cyn Yamashiro as President of the Commission with Sal Martinez and Donald Meredith as first and second vice presidents.

Commissioner Yamashiro was appointed to the probation commission by Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas and confirmed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in April of 2012. He has served as Probation Commissioner for the past eighteen months. Cyn Yamashiro is a criminal defense attorney in private practice and was a full-time professor at Loyola Law School for the previous nine years. He is an expert in criminal law and criminal practice as well as juvenile law and procedure. Commissioner Yamashiro was the founding executive director of the Center for Juvenile Law and Policy at Loyola Law School, a founding board member and executive board member of the Pacific Juvenile Defender Center, a member of the MacArthur Foundation's Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network for California and a founding board member of Colorado's Center for Juvenile Justice. He has published and commented extensively on criminal and juvenile delinquency matters for print, radio and digital media.

Commissioner Azael "Sal" Martinez Sonoqui was appointed by Supervisor Gloria Molina in 2011. Commissioner Martinez serves on the LAPD Hollenbeck Division Community Police Advisory Board, and has served 3 terms as Co-Chair. He is an active advocate at the following civic organizations: Resurrection Parish Neighborhood Watch, California 46th Assembly District Delegate, Los Angeles Parks Oversight Committee, and Central Regional Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee (RVNOC) for Prop K Funds, reviewer of Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa Office of Gang Reduction & Youth Development. He received the LAPD 2007 OCB volunteer of the Year Award and City Of Los Angeles True Angel Award in 2009.

Commissioner Don Meredith has served as a Probation Commissioner since May 2002. He was appointed by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the appointment was unanimously approved by the Los County Board of Supervisors. He has served numerous terms as the Los Angeles County Probation Commission President.

Commissioner Meredith combines his educational background and law enforcement experience, by serving as an adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at Mt. San Antonio College. Don's career in public service began in 1972 when he became a Cadet with the Glendale Police Department and promoted through the ranks to Lieutenant. Don received numerous commendations, awards and medals for community service, distinguished service and heroism during his law enforcement tenure.

The commission has been reconfigured, with the creation of liaisons to each of the subject areas that intersect with the work of the Probation Commission. President Yamashiro designated commissioners to be liaisons to stakeholders within each of the following areas according to their interest and expertise.

- i) Education
 - (a) Commissioner Holt
 - (b) Commissioner Jones
- ii) Probation Detention Facilities
 - (a) Commissioner Martinez
 - (b) Commissioner Hollopeter
- iii) Juvenile Justice Legal: Delinquency Courts, Dependency Courts, LA District Attorney, LA Public Defender, CLC, DCFS.
 - (a) Commissioner Kaplan
 - (b) Commissioner Patchett
 - (c) Commissioner Shutan
- iv) Law Enforcement/Adult Probation
 - (a) Commissioner Gardner
 - (b) Commissioner Meredith
- v) Mental Health/DMH
 - (a) Commissioner Chase
 - (b) Commissioner Jaques
- vi) Local and State Legislation
 - (a) Jesus Villa
 - (b) Olivia Mitchell

The Probation Commission was created in 1903 and is one of the County's oldest official bodies. The Probation Commission was established to meet the requirement that each county in California have a Juvenile Justice Commission. The Probation Commission consists of fifteen members, serving four-year terms. Three appointments are granted each of the five County Supervisors, reflecting the diversity of the community. The Commission is charged with overseeing the administration of juvenile delinquency law in Los Angeles County. Commissioners are selected because of their expertise in juvenile justice issues and come from varied backgrounds including the private and public sectors as well as academia.

The Probation Commission assists all Los Angeles County Departments to ensure that the Los Angeles County juvenile justice system is humane and effective. The Commission is committed to promoting the health, education and success of youth involved in the juvenile justice system in order to redirect youth who have exhibited antisocial behavior

The Los Angeles County Probation Commission was established pursuant to Section 240 et seq., and, by reference, to other applicable provisions of the Welfare and Institution Code, and by Article IV, Section 14, of the Los Angeles Charter. The Probation Commission derives its duties and powers from Welfare and Institutions Code Section 229, which states that the duty of the commission is to "inquire into the administration of the juvenile court law in the county or region in which the commission serves." The Commission is authorized to act in an advisory capacity to the Chief Probation Officer and charged by statute to inspect County Juvenile Probation Institutions.

Sincerely,

Cyn Yamashiro,
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Commissioners

Cyn Yamashiro- President, Clayton Hollopeter, Azael Martinez-Sonoqui - 1st Vice President
Lt. Donald Meredith - 2nd Vice President, Clayton Hollopeter - 3rd Vice President
Shirin Chase, L.M.F.T., Carol Patchett, Esq. Fitzgerald Jones, Gabriella Holt, R.N., E.J.D.,
Jo Kaplan, Esq., Olivia E. Mitchell, Peter Shutan, Joe Gardner, Carol Jacques, Jesus R. Villa